

ENERGY TIDBITS – January 2008

Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc. announced their annual award recipients on Dec. 8. at the Annual Membership Meeting in front of over 125 attendees at Leopold Brothers Brewery in Ann Arbor. The *Exemplary Project Award* went to the Hybrid Home team that designed and built the Onekama Hybrid Home that was a featured tour during the 2007 Michigan Energy Fair. Project partners included Adam Bearup (Hybrid Homes), homeowners Steve Szilvagyai & Faye Backie, Eric Hughes (Image Design), and Mark Bauer (Bauer Power). The *Individual Commitment* awardee was Dave Konkle, City of Ann Arbor Energy Coordinator. In the past 19 years, Dave has saved the City over \$8 million in energy costs. The *Business Leadership Award* went to Wolverine Power Cooperative and John Deere Renewables for the Harvest Wind Farm. The award was accepted by Chad Geiger of Wolverine Power. The 2007 recipient of the *GLREA Appreciation Award* is Robert B. Nelson of Fraser, Trebilcock, Davis & Dunlap. This award is given to an individual who has helped GLREA grow and fulfill its mission.

[Midwest Energy Solutions: Leading the Way](http://www.mwalliance.org/conference) conference is dedicated to energy issues in the Midwest. This year's conference will include sessions on energy policy initiatives, solutions to marketplace barriers, sector-specific initiatives, and the economic case for energy efficiency. Come to Chicago on January 9-11. www.mwalliance.org/conference.

Economic Impact of wind industry development as the result of Michigan adopting renewable portfolio standards would be significant, says a new report released by the Land Policy Institute at MSU. The study estimated that -- with the passage of a renewable energy law in Michigan -- wind energy development will produce 1,100 construction jobs per year for the next two decades, 3,010 permanent, continuing jobs related to the management and maintenance of wind installations by 2029, \$1.25 billion per year in construction-related new investments and spending over the next two decades and \$4.4 billion in continuous annual spending in maintenance and management by 2029. [Projected Impacts of RPS on Wind Industry Development in Michigan White Paper](#)

EMCORE has announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding for the supply of 60 MW of solar power for deployment in Ontario over the next 3 years. EMCORE will supply and install turnkey solar power systems in the Sault Ste Marie area utilizing concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) systems developed at its Albuquerque facility. The project developer, Pod Generating Group (PGG), has secured the licenses and permits for the project through the Ontario Power Authority Standard Offer Program and system deployment is expected to begin in mid-2008. The CPV systems use high-efficiency compound semiconductor-based multi-junction solar cells that operate with 500x concentration. In August 2007, EMCORE announced that it obtained 39% peak conversion efficiency

under 1000x concentration. The company is in discussions to set up a manufacturing plant in the area to supply the local demand as volume ramps up.

Silent Sport Lodge Bed & Breakfast in Wolverine has earned Green Lodging Michigan Steward certification. The B&B implemented several environmental initiatives at the facility such as installing a wood-fired boiler; using a rain water collection system for watering plants; and using low-flow faucets, showerheads, and fixtures to conserve water. Silent Sport Lodge grows many of the fresh, organic vegetables served at the B&B in a greenhouse located on site. "It was just natural for us to participate in the Green Lodging Michigan program since being green has been a way of life for us," said owners Rhonda and John Smit. "We have always grown our own organic vegetables, gathered wild fruits, recycled in many ways, and have strived to be energy efficient."

WARM Training Center will receive a \$24,900 Rebuild Michigan grant from the Energy Office to launch a program in Detroit. Delta Institute was awarded a \$23,142 grant to launch a Rebuild Michigan program in the GrandWalk Sustainable Community which encompasses a section of land between Grand Rapids and Walker. WARM Training Center and the Delta Institute will develop 2-5 year action plans and organize coalitions that will work on community energy goals; initially focusing on energy efficiency in public, commercial, & multi-family buildings. Additional information, Diane Van Buren Jones, WARM Training Center at (313)984-1030, Todd Parker, Delta Institute at (517)482-8810 or Tim Shireman, Energy Office at (517)241-6281 or shiremant@michigan.gov.

Michigan Renewable Energy Exchange (MI-REX) is operated by the Energy Office to provide a means for owners of small solar and wind electric systems to sell Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). The Energy Office provides this service at no charge, but only for solar or wind energy systems 1-100 kW in size located in Michigan. Between now and March 31 the Energy Office will be accepting applications to certify 2007 MWH production. www.michigan.gov/eorenew

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute's 6th Annual Renewable Energy Conference will be held on Saturday, March 15. The keynote speaker will be Todd Parker, Delta Institute, who will speak on the Chicago Climate Exchange. Breakout sessions include Economic Analysis of Renewable Energy Systems; Solar Hot Water; Building an Energy Efficient Home; and a State of the State Address. Check www.cedarcreekinstitute.org after January 21, 2008

American Solar Energy Society report indicates as many as 1 out of 4 workers in the U.S. could be working in the renewable and energy-efficiency industries in the year 2030. The report, [*Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: Economic Drivers for the 21st Century*](#), shows the green collar industry accounted for 8.5 million jobs in 2006 and more than a trillion dollars in sales. The industry could grow to 40 million jobs and generate \$4.5 trillion in 2030.

Large Scale (10kW or larger) Photovoltaic Demonstration Grants will be available to public agencies and non-profit organizations on a competitive basis. Three grants will be available. Each award will pay for up to 90% of PV equipment costs up to a maximum of \$50,000. Grantees will pay the balance of equipment costs, installation costs, and costs related to project management and education activities. The deadline is April 4, 2008. The Request for Proposal will be available January 7. Contact Roger Doherty at dohertyr1@michigan.gov or (517) 241-6224.

City of Grand Rapids has authorized the largest single purchase of Michigan-based renewable energy by enrolling as the largest participant in Consumers Energy's Green Generation program. The Grand Rapids City Commission Tuesday approved a resolution to enroll in the program. Through this action, Grand Rapids has attained its goal of receiving 20% of its electric supply from Michigan-based renewable sources by the end of 2008.

Wind Power installed in Michigan is now 55.5 MW and solar power installed in Michigan has reached 605 kW. www.michigan.gov/eorenew

Southeast Michigan RC&D Council has just launched the Michigan Wood Energy website, an interactive educational tool to assist facility managers in the use of wood biomass for energy. The site features the Wood Energy Calculator, which allows users to generate cost savings estimates for switching to wood as a boiler fuel, and a copy of "Exploring Woody Biomass Retrofit Opportunities in Michigan Boiler Operations. <http://michiganwoodenergy.org/>

Energy Tidbits is free. To subscribe, contact me at sarverj@michigan.gov.